

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**FOR**  
**BUILDING 104 DEMOLITION**  
**ROME RESEARCH SITE**  
**GRIFFISS BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY PARK**  
**ROME, ONEIDA COUNTY, NEW YORK**



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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**FOR**

**BUILDING 104 DEMOLITION  
ROME RESEARCH SITE  
GRIFFISS BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY PARK  
ROME, ONEIDA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**Prepared For:**

**AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY  
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**NOV 2012**

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## **I. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION**

### **A. Introduction**

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), Rome Research Site (RRS) is located in central New York State, in Oneida County, City of Rome. AFRL/RRS is at the former Griffiss Air Force Base (GAFB), and after the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) took place in 1995, GAFB was re-named Griffiss Business and Technology Park (GBTP). AFRL/RRS is comprised of 7 parcels of land that include 15 buildings (subject to change). Building 104 (B104) sits on approximately 2.4 acres of land. The locations of GBTP and B104 are shown in Appendix A, Facility Plan Griffiss Properties.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates potential natural and human environmental impacts of the Proposed Action, the demolition of B104, the impacts of one other alternative (Alternative 1) and the impacts of the No-Action Alternative. The EA compares the impacts of the three alternatives with intent to promote acceptance of the Proposed Action as the most beneficial proposal with the least negative impact.

### **B. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

As a primary purpose and need for the Proposed Action, the Air Force Research Laboratory/ Information Directorate (AFRL/RI) at RRS has declared B104 excess property and proposes to demolish the building and potentially incorporate the vacant land as part of an entry control point (ECP) and security fence project to meet Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) measures. The building is not occupied, but continued maintenance is necessary as long as it remains standing. Demolition of the building will remove this costly requirement. The project will provide force protection stand-off distance requirements and allow a new visitor center to be built. It is important to note that AFRL/RRS will conduct a separate and distinct NEPA effort before construction of the AT/FP perimeter fence and ECP project.

Equally important is the need to remediate portions of B104 contaminated with radium. Remedial action to remove the radium will require the removal of the building foundation to access buried sewer lines where contamination is suspected. Other contaminants such as lead paint, asbestos and heavy metals found in dry wells will be remediated and eliminated from concern before/during the building demolition. Please refer to page 6 for more information (**Fuels, Contamination and Hazardous Materials**).

### **C. Location of the Proposed Action**

B104 is situated at the central northwestern portion of the GBTP. The building is located at the southeast corner of Hangar Road and Chappy James Boulevard (Appendix A, Rome Research Site, Site Map). Adjacent to the building are developed properties including buildings, parking lots, and landscaped areas. Detailed descriptions with maps and diagrams of B104 are presented in the B104 Demolish Administrative Facility, B104 Final Submission, by Beardsley Design Associates. Persons wishing to review these documents should contact Public Affairs, 88 ABW/PA, 1801 Tenth Street, Suite 2, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-5543, (937) 255-3395.

#### **D. History of Use B104**

B104 was built in 1941 with an approximate footprint of 34,215 square feet and was used as an equipment research laboratory and repair shop as part of Griffiss AFB. Historical instrument repair and painting operations involved the use of luminous paint containing Radium 226 and is believed to have occurred in the 1940's. In later years, the facility was used as a photonics research lab. In 2005, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) relocated the Sensor Directorate to Wright Patterson Air Force Base. The time frame was to move all personnel (only Sensors Directorate personnel occupied B104) out of B104 by 2011. RRS had overseen Sensors Directorate operations at B104 since 1995 and laser research continued until 2011 when the building was finally closed and became excess to AFRL/RRS.

#### **E. Decision to be Made**

The purpose of this EA is to determine the extent of human and environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives, including the No-Action Alternative. Based on the evaluation of the EA, a determination will be made regarding substantial negative impacts from the Proposed Action. If impacts are not substantially negative, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be determined. If impacts are determined to be substantially negative, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required. The decision to be made is to allow the demolition of B104, (Proposed Action), to perform an Alternative Action, or to take No Action.

#### **F. Potential Environmental Impacts**

The Proposed Action involves the demolition of B104. The Proposed Action, Alternative 1 and No Action are evaluated for potential impacts to the following human and natural environmental elements:

- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Earth Resources, Geology and Soils
- Natural Resources/Biological Resources
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Transportation
- Visual, Noise, Safety and Health
- Fuels, Contamination and Hazardous Materials
- Socioeconomics
- Land Use
- Cumulative Impacts

#### **G. Permit Requirements**

The following environmental permit is anticipated and/or obtained for the Proposed Action and Alternative 1 for B104: Removal of radium will necessitate a Radiological Disposal Permit as required by the current USAF Radioactive Material Permit No. **NY-00642-00/00AFP**, Docket No. **030-00642**, prepared in accordance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's NUREG-1757, Volume 3, *Consolidated NMSS Decommissioning Guidance- Financial Assurance, Recordkeeping, and Timelines*. Additional licenses or environmental permits required for the Proposed Action are outlined within the following plans: Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC) and Storm Water Pollution

Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activity Number **GP-0-10-001** has been issued under the SWPPP. SPDES is a New York State program approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the Clean Water Act. The SPCC and the SWPPP would not be required for Alternative 1 or the No-Action Alternative since no demolitions would be performed.

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

### **A. Proposed Action: Demolition of B104**

The Proposed Action is to demolish B104. The proposal to demolish B104 is intended to remove an excess building from the AFRL/RRS inventory and clear space for the AT/FP perimeter fencing and ECP security upgrade. B104 demolition allows proper standoff for the AT/FP project fence and ECP to the existing RRS facilities. The AT/FP project has been under development for years, and the best scenario now considered incorporates the current Proposed Action. Legal issues with the building demolition have been reviewed to the satisfaction of all parties. B104 was reviewed by the AFRL/RRS Facility Board and The Air Force Real Property Agency who determined the building is excess to AFRL/RRS and may be demolished. Demolition will remove from the real property records buildings that are no longer required for RRS use. Removal will eliminate the need for RRS expenditures to maintain the facility, vandalism liabilities, environment contamination potential, and allow future AF/FP and ECP project development. Demolition of B104 will allow for radium remediation to be accomplished in a much more efficient and safe manner. Remedial action to remove the radium will require the removal of the building foundation to access buried sewer lines. Demolition will alleviate other potential environmental problems by removing lead, mercury and asbestos within and associated with the building. For the Proposed Action, no irreversible or irretrievable resource commitments would result.

### **B. Alternative Eliminated from Further Study**

One Alternative Action involving B104 has been considered but an acceptable solution could not be derived. Alternative 1 included AFRL/RRS retaining ownership while accommodating government agency tenants for B104. No government agency tenants are currently known to be looking to use the B104 space. Discussions about finding tenants for the facility were reviewed but dismissed. The building would require major structural and cosmetic upgrades to accommodate new occupants. Fire and Safety deficiencies would have to be addressed. B104 would require radium remediation before occupancy. This would involve costly removal of underground waste discharge conveyances, including excavation and subsequent structural upgrades and building inspections.

### **C. No Action Alternative**

Although it would not satisfy the purpose and need for the action, a No Action Alternative has been carried forward as the baseline against which potential impacts arising from action alternatives will be measured. The No Action Alternative is carried forward for analysis in accordance with CEQ regulations (40 CFR §1502.14 (d)). The No Action Alternative is to leave B104 standing and maintain the structure. This alternative has been rejected for a number of reasons. Under the Air Force's (AF) 20/20 by 2020 program, AFRL/RRS is required to demolish obsolete and excess facilities to meet AF sustainability goals. Remediation of radium and environmental contamination will still be required, but at a much higher cost. Also, the land on which B104 is located is within the boundary of the proposed RRS AT/FP and ECP

project. No Action leaves the building in place, proving unacceptable for the needs for AFRL/RRS. For these reasons, No Action has been eliminated from consideration in this EA.

### **III. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

#### **A. Air Quality**

The Proposed Action would initially have a negative impact to air quality due to the demolition of the facilities. Long term, the Proposed Action would have a positive impact to the environment due to no active emission sources (i.e. boilers, generators, or industrial operations). The proposed project is located in an attainment area, therefore a conformity analysis is not required. The result of No Action alternative would be minimal and relate strictly to the maintenance of the facilities. Alternative 1 could result in greater negative air quality impacts due to new occupancy and possibly industrial usage.

#### **B. Water Resources**

##### Aquifers

The proposed action, No-Action and Alternative 1 will have no impact on aquifers.

##### Floodplains

B104 is not situated directly within the 100 year event zone of any floodplain. The Proposed Action, No-Action and Alternative 1 will have no impact on floodplains.

##### Surface waters/Storm water

Surface runoff waters at B104 drain through storm sewers primarily to Three Mile Creek which runs into the Barge Canal. The project is subject to NYSDEC SPDES requirements, since it requires greater than one acre of land disturbance. B104 demolition is permitted under the GP-0-10-001. Storm sewers within or adjacent to B104 will not be substantially impacted during demolition when required SWPPP measures are followed. No major changes in surface water drainage patterns are anticipated, and land associated with B104 will not be negatively impacted. Special precautions to protect the radium contamination will be spelled out in the SWPPP. Continued existence of the building as in No- Action and Alternative 1 would have no impact to surface or storm water.

##### Wetlands

NYSDEC Wetlands Maps were reviewed and show that no wetlands occur within GBTP or adjacent to the B104 site. None of the alternatives pose substantial negative impact to any wetlands.

#### **C. Earth Resources, Geology and Soils**

##### Bedrock

Bedrock underlying B104 is primarily Utica Shale, a carboniferous and fossiliferous shale with slight fracturing, and occurs from the surface to approximately 130 inches deep. Very little negative impact due to disturbance of bedrock will occur as a result of any of the four alternatives for B104.

## Soils/Geology/Erosion

The majority of the former GAFB, including B104, consists of sand and loam soils of the Windsor and Covert series. These soils are the result of glacial till and Pleistocene river/lake deposits. The soils are well drained with low clay content and low shrink/swell potential. B104 overlies graded loamy and sand soil in the central area of GAFB. Topsoil throughout GAFB has been disturbed and relocated as part of ongoing development in the area since the 1940s. Soil erosion at B104 is minimal due to nearly level concrete and grassy areas surrounding them. Erosion of surface soils and subsurface substrates is not likely during demolition, as erosion potential will be minimized by erection of silt fences, storm water catch basins, and other measures required in the SWPPP. Impacts to soil and erosion potential will be negligible if the buildings are left in place as with No Action and Alternative 1.

## **D. Natural Resources/Biological Resources**

### Threatened or Endangered Species

There are no Endangered Species Act (ESA) Threatened or Endangered Species (T&E) plant or animal species occurring at or near B104, except for the remote possibility of a transient avian species passing nearby during seasonal migration. The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is listed as Endangered under ESA and although it may occur in Oneida County, NY during the summer months, critical habitat designation does not include any habitat in Central New York State. Therefore, demolition of the building would not substantially impact T&E species. No Action and Alternative 1 would have no substantial negative impact on listed species.

### Flora and Fauna

The property at B104 has been developed since 1941; therefore the original natural floral structure at these sites does not remain. Very little disturbance of flora is desired during the Proposed Action and efforts will be taken by AFRL/RRS to protect trees in the vicinity of the building. Grass and pavement will replace the building and concrete, and the site may be reclaimed with new tree plantings. The other two alternatives should have very little negative impact on flora and fauna if one is chosen. Plant species that occur at the site appear healthy. No animal species have been observed at the B104 site.

## **E. Historic and Cultural Resources**

### Historic Resources

Demolition of the building or alteration of property is being considered by AFRL/RI in the Proposed Action. Since B104 is greater than 50 years old, it may potentially qualify for Cold War Survey designation or registration through compliance with Section 106, 36 CFR Part 800 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The New York State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) was contacted for consultation regarding eligibility of B104 in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A letter of request for eligibility determination for B104 was sent to the SHPO by the Chief of the Environmental and Occupational Health Office (RIOCV), Mr. William Brain (Appendix B). The SHPO responded via letter rating the eligibility for inclusion in the NHRP (Appendix B). B104 is rated by the SHPO as not eligible for registration in the NHRP. It is therefore concluded that the Proposed Action will not have a substantial negative impact upon RRS historic resources. Also, the other two alternatives

leave the buildings intact and relatively unaltered, resulting in little substantial negative impact potential on RRS historic resources.

### Cultural Resources

The Oneida Indian Nation (OIN) is a local Native American tribe whose ancestral lands included part or all of RRS. The RRS campus was evaluated for possible discovery of ancestral archeological sites, artifacts, prehistoric and historic burial sites during development of facilities and utilities at GAFB. A cultural resources investigation was undertaken in 1995 as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) action. AFRL determined that new archeological discoveries were unlikely, due to previous advanced site development. The 2007-2011 RRS Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) states, "There is extremely limited potential for the Rome Research Site campus to have archeological resources. The campus is entirely developed, consisting of large buildings and structures, paved parking lots, and roadways." (see also Appendix A). OIN historians were consulted during ICRMP development and did not express concern over continued development at RRS, including demolitions and construction of new facilities. The ICRMP discusses in detail the archeological investigations and consultation with the OIN historians that took place. The ICRMP is available from RIOCV upon request. It is not likely that archeological or cultural resources will be substantially negatively impacted from any of the three alternatives.

### **F. Transportation**

Transportation patterns will not substantially change due to implementation of any of the three alternatives.

### **G. Noise, Safety and Health**

In the Proposed Action dust, safety and noise will be addressed by the contractors Safety and Health plan. Since no RRS employees are currently occupying the facility or will be involved with the demolition, there will be no direct impact to AF personnel safety or health. No substantial noise, safety, or health impacts are anticipated due to any of the three alternatives.

### **H. Fuels, Contamination and Hazardous Materials**

#### Fuels/Tanks

No fuels or Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs) remain on the B104 site. No spills were documented during the life history of the facility. No substantial negative impacts due to fuels contamination are anticipated from any of the three alternatives being evaluated.

#### Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

PCB investigations, a records search and on-site inspection indicate that B104 has the potential for PCBs in light ballasts. AFRL/RRS will collect all light ballasts to ensure PCB ballasts are segregated and properly disposed of. No other PCB containing equipment was identified.

### Asbestos

Asbestos demolition surveys have been performed at B104 and remediation will be performed prior to any renovation or demolition by NYSDEC-trained contractors. Results from asbestos abatements surveys contracted by AFRL/RRS are available upon request.

### Radiation

Radium investigations were performed in B104. Air Force Institute of Operational Health's Radiation Surveillance Division (AFIOH/SDR) investigated potential radiation exposures to AFRL/RRS personnel working in and around B104 that may have previously housed radium painting operations. From 28-31 October 2003, the team performed an assessment of residual radioactive materials (RAM), specifically radium-226 and its progeny (including radon-222). The objective was to ensure compliance with Air Force Instruction (AFI) 48-148, Ionizing Radiation Protection. The team evaluated external and internal (inhalation and ingestion) pathways within B104, the associated infrastructure, the sanitary sewer system and the storm sewer system. RAM was identified in Building 104 but does not pose a hazard to personnel if left undisturbed. Measured radon concentrations and dose rates in B104 did not exceed standards for the general public. Dose rates measured in the sewer systems did not exceed applicable standards for the general public. Only demolition or renovation to B104 could potentially release radium into the environment.

A Radioactive Materials Characterization survey was conducted April 4-7 and June 21-22, 2011 to determine the extent of residual contamination and to identify remedial action that must occur if the building were to be demolished or renovated. Low levels of residual radium contamination were identified in the following locations of the subject building:

#### Interior:

Rooms 25, 26, and 30.

Ventilation equipment in the mechanical mezzanine associated with Rooms 25 and 26.

Building drains/plumbing associated with Rooms 25 and 26.

#### Exterior:

East exterior brick wall of the mezzanine directly below ventilation fan #6 exhaust and plywood covering the exhaust.

Roofing below ventilation duct.

Radium decommissioning activities, if accomplished, will be conducted by a New York State certified contractor and overseen by the Air Force Inspection Agency, The Air Force Radioisotope Committee (RIC), and NYS DEC. All radium containing wastes generated from renovation or demolition activities will be properly handled and disposed of outside of New York State. Exact location of the radium containing waste will be determined by its radiological activity. No radium containing waste will be disposed of in New York State. All alternatives, at some point, will require radioactive decommissioning of B104. Radiation survey information is available upon request.

### Lead Based Paint

An evaluation of B104 determined that interior and exterior surface coatings contain small amounts of lead in some painted surfaces. Remediation of lead based paint will be performed on required surfaces

prior to any building demolition or renovation. No substantial negative impacts due to lead based paint are anticipated from any of the three alternatives being evaluated.

## **I. Socioeconomics**

### Demographic Character Changes

Demographics will not be substantially negatively impacted by any of the alternatives for B104.

### Displacement and Employment/ Income Patterns

The Proposed Action will employ a number of personnel for the demolition of the facilities. No businesses will be displaced by demolition of B104 since no one occupies the building and no tenants were found who would occupy. If Alternative 1 is chosen, building upgrades would be required to accommodate employees. No substantial negative impacts are anticipated by any alternative.

## **J. Land use**

Demolition of B104 will have no substantial negative impact on land use, but will result in a positive impact potential. The land will be vacated to make room for the proposed AT/FP and ECP security upgrade. Alternative 1 and No Action would have no substantial negative impact to land use qualities.

## **K. Cumulative Impacts**

Positive cumulative impacts to the human or natural environment are anticipated from the Proposed Action, the demolition of B104. Removal of the building will eliminate contaminant sources of lead, mercury, PCBs, asbestos, and radium. The vacated lands allow the AT/FP project to move forward providing for safety and security, and socioeconomic benefits from employment. Negative impacts on the environment due to contaminant potential and security due to lack of land availability for the security upgrade may result from No Action. No Action could prove costly in the long run due to the requirement to maintain unused buildings. Impact from Alternative 1 includes costly upgrades and improvements, contamination remediation to make room for future tenants and lack of required space for AT/FP requirements.

## **IV. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Proposed Action</u>	<u>No Action</u>	<u>Alt 1</u>
Air Quality	Pos	None	None
Water Resources	Pos	Neg	Neg
Earth Resources, Geology and Soils	None	None	None
Natural Resources/Biological Resources	Pos	None	None
Historical and Cultural Resources	None	None	None
Transportation	None	None	None
Visual, Noise, Safety and Health	Pos	None	None
Fuels, Contamination, Hazardous Materials	Pos	None	None
Socioeconomics	Pos	Neg	Pos
Land Use	Pos	None	None
Cumulative Impacts	Pos	Neg	Neg

## **V. CONCLUSION**

The incremental contribution of impacts of the Proposed Action, when considered in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, are not expected to have significant long-term negative impacts to any of the resource areas analyzed. Short-term, negative direct impacts to air, water and soil resources may occur during the demolition of the facility required to satisfy the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action. Environmental and historical research, contamination remediation investigations, and future remediation indicate no potential for substantial negative impact to the human or natural environment resulting from demolition of B104. Based on this research and evaluation, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this effort is not warranted. It is recommended that a FONSI be issued.

## **VI. CONTACTS AND AGENCIES**

For additional information on this EA/FONSI, please contact Ms. Estella Holmes, Public Affairs, 88 ABW/PA, 1801 Tenth Street, Suite 2, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-5543, (937) 255-3395, email: [estella.holmes@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:estella.holmes@wpafb.af.mil).

Personal communication between the AFRL/RIOCV Chief (Brain), AFRL Real Property Manager (RIOCC – previous -Vanderhoff/present -Blake) and the AFRL Biological Environmental Scientist (RIOCV - Sprague) resulted in reporting of information contained in this document. Personal communication also occurred between RIOCV (Sprague) and HQ AFMC A7PX (Pershing) for guidance in developing this EA. Cultural resources guidance was provided by HQ AFMC/A7PX (Roemer). Legal review was provided by RIJ (Pisano). The New York State SHPO was sent a letter by Mr. William Brain, Chief, RIOCV, requesting determination for eligibility of B104 for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). SHPO stated in a letter of reply that B104 does not qualify for inclusion in NHRP. The Final Supplemental Environmental Baseline Survey, Sept. 1999, Disposal and Re-Use of Airfield at Griffiss Air Force Base, New York was cited during research for this report. The remainder of the investigation and report was performed and authored by the RIOCV (Sprague).

List of contacts:

Alex Blake, AFRL/RIOCV  
William Brain, AFRL/RIOCV  
Carmen Pisano, AFRL/RIJ  
Melanie Pershing, HQ AFMC/A7PX  
Ruth Pierpont, Director, NYSHPO

## **REFERENCES**

*Basewide Environmental Baseline Survey, Griffiss Air Force Base, New York, USAF, September 1994.*  
*Final Supplemental Environmental Impact statement, Disposal and Re-Use of Airfield at Griffiss Air Force Base, New York September 1999.*  
*Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, 2007 – 2011 for the Rome Research Site, Stockbridge Test Facility, and Newport Test Facility in Oneida, Madison, and Herkimer Counties, New York, June 2008.*  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Endangered Species Act (ESA) website.  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Wetlands Map website.

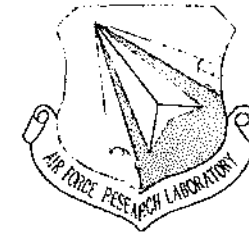
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Office (AFRL/RIOCV).

## **APPENDIX A: Site Plan and Diagrams**

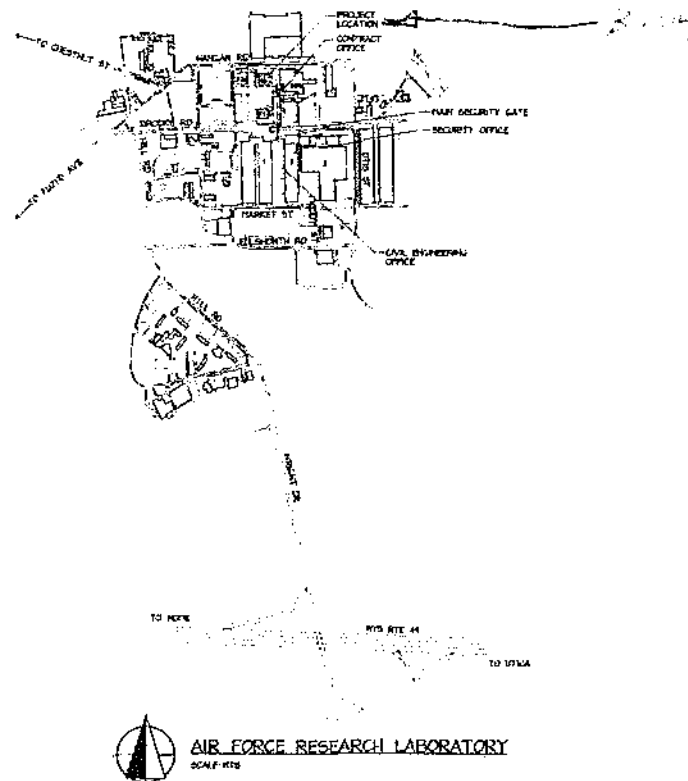
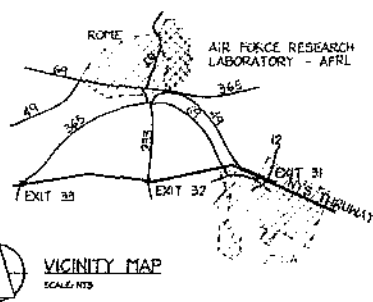
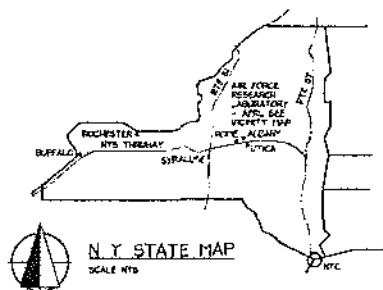


# ROME RESEARCH SITE ROME, NEW YORK



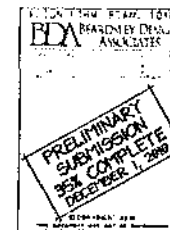
## AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY DEMOLISH ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITY, BUILDING 104

35% SUBMISSION – DECEMBER 1, 2010



### DRAWING LIST

COVER COVER SHEET  
C-100 EXISTING CONDITIONS AND DEMOLITION PLAN  
C-101 SITE IMPROVEMENTS PLAN



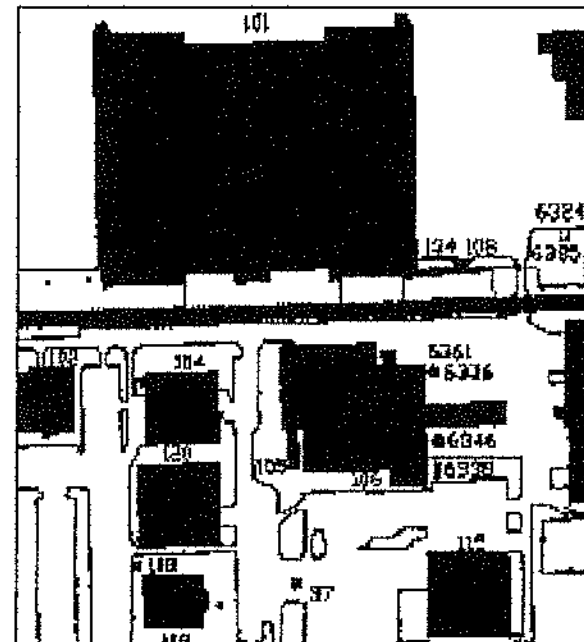
Air Force Research Laboratory Rome Research Site New York		
DEMOLISH ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITY, BUILDING 104		
ALL TRADES COVER SHEET		Rome Research Site PROJECT NUMBER 100 DRAWING NO. PROJECT NO. 03-0201AC
COVER	1-0	UNSTAMPED



**Construction Began: Aug 1941**

## Rome Air Material Area

## February 1942 – April 1967



*Integrity - Service - Excellence*



- Building was originally designated as an *Equipment Repair Shop* in 1940s (34,215 sf)
- Luminous painting area was converted into a laser laboratory
- Building was retained by Rome Laboratory (AFMC) following closure of Griffiss AFB in 1995
- ~~No known action taken to date to investigate potential radium contamination~~



[illegible][illegible]

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[illegible]

**APPENDIX B: New York State SHPO Correspondence – Letter of Request and SHPO Reply Letter**



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY AFRL

Mr. William Brain, REM  
Environmental and Occupational Health Office (RIOCV)  
150 Electronic Parkway  
Rome, New York 13441-4514

December 8, 2010

Mr. Travis Bowman  
New York State Historic Preservation Office  
Peebles Island Resource Center  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

Dear Mr. Bowman:

Rome Research Site (RRS) is proposing to demolish RRS Building 104, built in 1943 and a candidate building for Cold War survey, and has hired a contractor, Beardsley Design Associates, to work with the Civil Engineering Office (RIOCV).

The Environmental and Occupational Health Office (RIOCV) is complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in coordinating with your office. As requested through a conversation earlier this morning with our Cultural Resources Manager, Mr. Calvin Sprague, I am enclosing photographs and maps/diagrams of Building 104. The project is being funded by the United States Government, Air Force Research Laboratory Headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

Please review the documents to determine NRHP eligibility and contact either myself at (315) 330-1754, or Mr. Sprague at (315) 330-3830 at your earliest convenience.

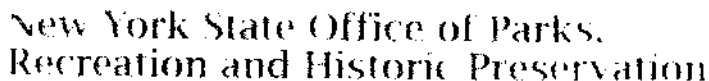
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mr. William E. Brain  
Chief, Environmental and  
Occupational Health Office

Enclosures:

Photographs of Building 104 (22 pages)  
Rome Research Site, Air Force Research Laboratory, Demolish Administration Facility,  
Building 104, 35% Submission, December 1, 2010 map/diagram.



2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 26

CHRO. Act

December 22, 2010

William E. Brain  
Air Force Research Laboratory,  
150 Electronic Parkway  
Rome, New York 13423-1514

RC AIR FORCE  
Demolition-- Rome Research Site Building 104  
near Hangar Rd Fmr Griffiss Air Force  
Base-ROME Oneida County  
OPR07688

Dear Mr. Brain:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic Cultural resources. They do not include potential environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

Based upon this review, it is the SHPO's opinion that your project will have No Effect upon cultural resources in or eligible for inclusion in the National Registers of Historic Places.

If further correspondence is required regarding this project, please be sure to refer to the OPRHP Project Review (PR) number noted above.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Rupert

Ruth L. Pierpont  
Acting Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## **Notice of Availability**

### **Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (Draft FONSI) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Air Force Research Laboratory/ Information Directorate (AFRL/RI) Building 104 Demolition Project, Rome Research Site, Rome, NY**

**ROME LABORATORY** – Beginning November 30, 2012, through December 14, 2012, Environmental Management officials will accept comments on the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Air Force Research Laboratory/Information Directorate (AFRL/RI) Building 104 Demolition Project located in the City of Rome, Oneida County, NY. The project will comprise a demolition of Building 104 which has been declared excess property, located entirely within the boundaries of the existing Rome Research Site.

The U.S. Air Force is proposing to issue a FONSI based on this EA. The analysis considered potential effects of the Proposed Action (PA) and the No Action Alternative on eleven resource areas: air quality; water resources; earth resources, geology and soils; natural resources/biological resources; historical and cultural resources; transportation; visual, noise, safety and health, fuels, contamination and hazardous materials, socioeconomics; land use, and cumulative impacts. The results, as found in the EA, show that the PA would not have substantial adverse impact on the environment—indicating that a FONSI would be appropriate. An Environmental Impact Statement should not be necessary to implement the PA.

The public is invited to review copies of the Draft FONSI and EA showing the analyses which are available for review at the Jervis Public Library, 613 N. Washington Street, Rome, NY 13440.

Written comments and inquiries on the DRAFT FONSI and EA should be directed to AFRL/RIJ, 26 Electronic Parkway, Rome, NY 13441, 315-330-2087, [afrl.rij@rl.af.mil](mailto:afrl.rij@rl.af.mil), or 88 ABW/PA, 5135 Pearson Road, Bldg. 10, Rm. 252, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-5543, (937) 255-3521, [theodore.theopolos@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:theodore.theopolos@wpafb.af.mil).

# STAFF SUMMARY SHEET

	TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname), GRADE AND DATE		TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname), GRADE AND DATE
1	RI Admin	Log #9486	<i>Edm</i> 1/9/13	6	<i>Safety Officer</i>	Review	<i>sh. J...</i> 1-16-13
2	RI Ch Eng	Review	<i>Al2</i> 1-10-13	7			
3	RI Ch Sci	Review	<i>Dr. Lunden</i> 1-25-13	8			
4	RRS/CC;RI Dep Dir	Review	<i>Blanks, Col</i> 28 Jan 2013	9	Branch Sec	Coord	<i>J. Lopez</i> 9-Jan-2013
5	RI Dir	Sign/ Approve	<i>for Blanks, Col</i> 28 Jan 2013	10	Div Sec	Coord	<i>J. Mantrella</i> 9-Jan-2013

SURNAME OF ACTION OFFICER AND GRADE  
Sprague, Calvin R.

SYMBOL  
RIOCV

PHONE  
587-3830

TYPIST'S  
INITIALS  
web

SUSPENSE DATE

SUBJECT  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BUILDING 104  
DEMOLITION

DATE  
20130109

## SUMMARY

- PURPOSE:** The Environmental Assessment (EA) was performed to assess potential significant negative impacts to the human and natural environment due to The Proposed Action, cleanup of radium contamination and demolition of B104. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that is attached was determined as a result of EA findings.
- BACKGROUND:** Building 104, was formally used as an equipment research laboratory at Griffiss AFB. Instrument repair included the use of radium paint, and residual radium can still be found at several locations in B104 requiring remediation. The facility was used by Rome Laboratory as a Photonics research facility, but is no longer required for RRS requirements.
- DISCUSSION:** The EA/DRAFT FONSI was placed at the Rome Jervis Library for public review the first two weeks in December. No public comments in opposition to the project were received.
- RECOMMENDATION:** Col Blanks sign and date the Final FONSI (attached).

*Daniel C. Bollana*

DANIEL C. BOLLANA  
Chief, Site Operations  
Information Directorate

## **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

### **Environmental Assessment for**

### **Building 104 Demolition**

**Air Force Research Laboratory, Rome Research Site, Rome, NY**

**Introduction** - The U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory, Rome Research Site (AFRL/RRS), Environmental and Occupational Health Office (AFRL/RIOCV) prepared this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508; and Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP), 32 CFR 989. The decision in this FONSI is based upon information contained in the *Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Building 104 Demolition*.

**Purpose and Need of Proposed Action** - The purpose of the EA is to determine the extent of adverse environmental impact that may result from the proposed demolition of Administrative Facility Building 104 (B104) within the boundaries of AFRL/RRS, and to evaluate whether these impacts, if any, would be significant. The purposes of the Proposed Action are to vacate the lands upon which B104 sits to incorporate future proposed Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) measures, including a new Entry Control Point (ECP), and to remediate existing radium sources and other contaminants, which requires building removal. The need arises from the necessity to consolidate lands for the AT/FP project, and to remove potentially hazardous wastes from RRS property.

**Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives** - The Proposed Action is for AFRL/RRS to demolish B104 and remediate radium and other hazardous wastes from the property. No other Alternative considerations for property usages offered were acceptable to the Proponent (AFRL/RRS). The No-Action Alternative, to leave B104 standing in place, is unfeasible and not considered since AFRL/RRS has no need for the facility. Hazardous liabilities would remain and potential AT/FP development would not occur with No-Action. The other Alternative is for AFRL/RRS to retain ownership of B104 while accommodating other government agency tenants. This would require costly building upgrades and radium remediation that cannot feasibly be performed without building demolition. This Alternative is therefore also dismissed from consideration. The Proposed Action is the only Alternative to meet the Proponent's selection criteria, in addition to having no significant adverse impact on the natural or human environment.

**Environmental Analysis** - The potential for adverse human and natural environmental impacts exist with the demolition of an existing building that contains known hazardous substances, thus requiring an EA with an anticipated FONSI to be determined. The analysis of the Proposed Action determined that the B104 Demolition Project will have no significant negative impacts to the human and natural environment at RRS and surrounding areas. The Proposed Alternative has been researched for potential

adverse impacts during the EIAP, with net positive impacts assessed. Potential wetlands and Threatened & Endangered (T&E) Species were researched for adverse impacts by AFRL/RIOCV through United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) media sources. Cultural and archaeological resources were assessed for potential eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) with New York State Historical Preservation Office (NYSHPO) personnel by requirement, which is referenced in the EA.

Based on investigations and inquiries performed, no adverse environmental, cultural, or human impacts would occur with the Proposed Action, B104 demolition. No historic properties would be affected by this Alternative and appropriate coordination under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106, lead to this conclusion. Unexpected discoveries of cultural resources/historic properties during implementation of the Proposed Action would be coordinated under provisions of 36 CFR 800.13 or other applicable authorities. Positive socioeconomic impacts are anticipated from demolition of B104 through hiring of contractors, elimination of present building maintenance needs, and improvements to safety and security of RRS and surrounding personnel.

**Conclusion – Finding of No Significant Impact** - In accordance with the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA and the Air Force EIAP, AFRL/RRS concludes that the Proposed Action, Demolition of B104, as described in this FONSI and in the EA will have No Significant Impact to the human or natural environment. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not warranted.

**Public Notice** - The Environmental Assessment for Building 104 Demolition, Rome Research Site, Oct. 2012, accompanies this FONSI and should be referenced for more specific information. The EA and the FONSI were available for public review and comment for a two week period during November and December, 2012 in the Jervis Public Library, 613 N. Washington Street, Rome, NY, as advertised in the RRS Legal Office Public Notice. For additional information on this EA/FONSI, please contact Ms. Estella Holmes, Public Affairs, 88 ABW/PA, 1801 Tenth Street, Suite 2, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-5543, (937) 255-3395, email: estella.holmes@wpafb.af.mil.

SIGNED:



DATE: 28 Jan 2013

DAVID P. BLANKS, Col, USAF  
Commander, Rome Research Site